

Hidden Meadows Community Trail and Pathway Plan

Trails: The Community Connection

The Community Trails Master Plan will be utilized to develop a system of interconnected regional and community trails and pathways. These trails and pathways are intended to address an established public need for recreation and transportation, but will also provide health and quality of life benefits associated with hiking, biking, and horseback riding throughout the County's biologically diverse environments.

Community trails serve a different function than regional trails, which are focused on the provision of long linear distances. Instead, community trails are "local public facilities" in close proximity to residents that provide transportation, recreation, access, infrastructure, linkages and safe routes throughout a community. The Community Trails Master Plan (CTMP) involves both trail development and management on public, semi-public and private lands. The CTMP has established two forms of non-motorized facilities called "Trails" and "Pathways" that provide passive recreational, and alternative modes of transportation.

Trails are typically away from vehicular roads that are primarily recreational in nature but can also serve as an alternative mode of transportation. They are soft-surface facilities for single or multiple uses by pedestrians, equestrians, and mountain bicyclists.

Pathways are a non-motorized transportation facility located within a parkway or road right of way. A riding and hiking trail located in the road right of way is considered a pathway. They are soft-surfaced facilities intended to serve both circulation and recreation purposes. Pathways help make critical connections and are an integral part of a functional trail system.

COMMUNITY TRAIL STATEMENT

Hidden Meadows is a unique residential community, often referred to as one of inland North County's best-kept secrets. Most of the home sites are between 1/2 and 4 acres. A 1500 foot altitude means a pleasant year round climate with ocean breezes. Usually, Hidden Meadows is above the fog, which makes for more sunshine than coastal regions.

This cul-de-sac community with only one paved road in and out makes for less crime and very little traffic. There are dramatic views of mountains and valleys including Palomar Mountain and San Geronio, which are snow-clad in winter. We enjoy an abundance of wildlife, bright stars, stunning sunrises and sunsets. A small town atmosphere and pastoral way of life result in truly friendly people.

Because the neighborhood is normally traversed by auto, there are no sidewalks, bike trails, or walking paths for the residents. The population has increased substantially over the past ten years and the increased vehicle traffic has made it dangerous for residents walking or jogging along the roads. Furthermore, there are no cross-country trails for more strenuous exercise.

Community Boundaries

The Hidden Meadows community is commonly defined with boundaries of North View Court on the north, Interstate 15 on the west, Jesmond

Dene on the south, and Daley Ranch/Turner Lake on the east. The Hidden Meadows Community Sponsor Group planning area covers the Jesmond Dene and North Broadway areas down to the City of Escondido. The Alps Way area on the east side and the North View Lane area on the north are traditionally considered part of Hidden Meadows and the Sponsor Group is

working to include these areas in its territory.

Sixteen miles of trails are planned in this area that include trails located in the central Hidden Meadows area, trails that connect to the Bonsall trail system, the Lawrence Welk Village, and the Jesmond Dene/North Broadway area to the south. Based upon the projected 2020 population of 10,000 residents, a total of 7 miles is specified for Priority 1 and 2 trails.

Proposed Trail Overview

The trails in Hidden Meadows will consist of pathways along busy streets and trails away from homes and auto traffic.

The pathways are designed primarily to increase the safety of the residents and encourage people to get out and walk more. These pathways are located next to the busiest roads in the community.

The proposed trail #6 would be for those seeking more strenuous exercise as it climbs and falls 500 feet several times over its entire length. This proposed trail is unpaved and could be located on the SDG&E easement.

Trail connections to neighboring communities have been taken into account. Up to three connections can be made to the Valley Center Trails System and one connection is planned for Daley Ranch. Three trails terminate at the City of Escondido a trail has been identified for

future trail connection to the Twin Oaks community and another trail connects to the proposed Bonsall trails system.

THE NEED FOR TRAILS

The community trail needs are based on an equation established by the Trails System Assessment (TSA) in 2001, which identified a minimum baseline level of service for each community by population. The Baseline Level of Service or Trail Need is 0.8 miles of trail per 1,000 people.

The “Trail Need” is the minimum length of trail miles (baseline level of service) for each Community and Subregional Plan Area. The TSA calculations for community trail needs are as follows:

- **Trail Need** = (Community Population /1,000 residents x 0.8 miles of trails)
- **2000 Trail Need** = (2000 population /1,000 residents x 0.8 miles of trails)
- **2020 Trail Need** = (2020 population /1,000 residents x 0.8 miles of trails)

Population statistics from the 2000 U.S. Census were used to determine the current trail needs in Hidden Meadows. Based on the census, the population of the Hidden Meadows Community Plan Area is 6,472 and there is a current need for 5 miles of community trails. In the year 2020, the population is projected to increase to 11,290 and there would be a future need for 9 miles of community trails.

For additional information about the baseline level of service and trail needs, please refer to the discussion under “**The Need for Trails**” and **Tables NT-1 and NT-2** in the CTMP.

COUNTYWIDE TRAIL GOALS AND POLICIES

The “**Countywide Goals and Policies**” contained in the CTMP apply to all community and sub-regional plan areas. Community-specific goals and policies are intended to accommodate specific needs and they will be implemented when feasible. Where Community-specific goals and policies are not addressed, the “**Countywide Goals and Policies**” contained in CTMP shall apply.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES

Countywide trail guidelines in the Community Trails Master Plan apply to all community and sub-regional plan areas. Community-specific guidelines are intended to accommodate specific community needs and they will be implemented when feasible. Where Community specific guidelines are not addressed, the Countywide “**Design and Construction Guidelines**” contained in the CTMP shall apply.

HIDDEN MEADOWS COMMUNITY TRAIL IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

Implementation Alternatives

Because the Hidden Meadows Trails Plan is straightforward and limited to seven trails covering 16 miles, there is no presumed need for alternatives. Hidden Meadows proposes that the community trails plan be implemented one trail at a time based upon usage demand. The development, operation, and maintenance will be the responsibility of The Trail Blazers Committee. Hidden Meadows has stated “there is also no alternative for funding through the PLDO program”.

Implementation Goals

The goals of implementing trails in the Hidden Meadows community include resident safety, exercise opportunities, and pleasant walks in this beautiful neighborhood.

An organizing committee entitled "The Trail Blazers" has been formed to implement this trail plan. This small group of volunteers is expected to increase to a total of 25 before the first shovel is turned.

Implementation Funding

It is the community's desire to utilize PLDO funds to build these trails and have requested the release of those funds by the

County. This is imperative and necessary to even begin the first trail.

Trail Maintenance

The design of the trails will not result in high maintenance costs. Most trails will be simple in design. Fencing may be appropriate for one or two trails but not all. Debris and litter along the trails is expected to be minimal, as regular walkers will typically pick up any trash they see. Serious consideration will be given to an "Adopt-a-Trail" program.

HIDDEN MEADOWS COMMUNITY TRAILS MAP SUMMARY

As a result of the community trails outreach process for development of the CTMP, the Hidden Meadows Community Sponsor Group completed several tasks, and prioritized community trails and pathways as well as their special features. Each trail and pathway was labeled and recorded producing a community trails map and index.

Proposed trails shown on trails maps contained in the Community Trail Master Plan depict corridors of general alignments. The term “general alignment” is used to describe the general location of a future trail within a designated corridor so that the specific alignment can be determined during the review and approval process when a discretionary application is submitted for a development permit for land that includes a trail corridor. The designated corridor is

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approximately one-quarter mile wide. A general alignment is useful because it allows the trail to be located to avoid extreme topographical conditions, sensitive habitat or other site-specific constraints.

HIDDEN MEADOWS COMMUNITY TRAILS MAP INDEX

The following community trails map index was completed by the Hidden Meadows Community Sponsor Group and will be used as a reference tool.

HIDDEN MEADOWS TRAILS INDEX

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Trail #: 1	<u>USGS Quad(s):</u> 82	<u>Name:</u> MMR North <u>Connections:</u> Trails #2, 3	Trail Status: () Existing (x) Proposed	<u>Trail Priority Criteria:</u> High daily usage. Fitness/exercise safety	<u>Special Features:</u> Varied topology
			Trail Type: () Trail (x) Pathway		
			Trail Priority: (x) 1 () 2 () 3		
			Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 2		
Trail #: 2	<u>USGS Quad(s):</u> 82	<u>Name:</u> MMR South <u>Connections:</u> Trails #1, 3, 5, 7	Trail Status: () Existing (x) Proposed	<u>Trail Priority Criteria:</u> Parking lot trailhead. Connects to I-15.	<u>Special Features:</u> Steep incline
			Trail Type: () Trail (x) Pathway		
			Trail Priority: (x) 1 () 2 () 3		
			Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 2		
Trail #: 3	<u>USGS Quad(s):</u> 82	<u>Name:</u> HM Road <u>Connections:</u> Trails #1, 2, 4, 6 , Valley Center	Trail Status: () Existing (x) Proposed	<u>Trail Priority Criteria:</u> Connects Hidden Meadows to Daley Ranch - high usage potential	<u>Special Features:</u> Golf course loop easy walk.
			Trail Type: () Trail (x) Pathway		
			Trail Priority: (x) 1 () 2 () 3		
			Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 2		
Trail #: 4	<u>USGS Quad(s):</u> 82	<u>Name:</u> Cougar <u>Connections:</u> Trails #3, 5	Trail Status: () Existing (x) Proposed	<u>Trail Priority Criteria:</u> Connects Valley Center, Daley Ranch and Escondido	<u>Special Features:</u> Uses Valley Center Water District road
			Trail Type: () Trail (x) Pathway		
			Trail Priority: (x) 1 () 2 () 3		
			Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 3.5		
Trail #: 5	<u>USGS Quad(s):</u> 82	<u>Name:</u> Jesmond <u>Connections:</u> Trails #2, 3, 6, 7	Trail Status: () Existing (x) Proposed	<u>Trail Priority Criteria:</u> Walker safety, high speed traffic	<u>Special Features:</u> Picturesque
			Trail Type: () Trail (x) Pathway		
			Trail Priority: (x) 1 () 2 () 3		
			Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 5.3		
Trail #: 6	<u>USGS Quad(s):</u> 82	<u>Name:</u> SDGE <u>Connections:</u> Trails #3, 5, Valley Center	Trail Status: () Existing (x) Proposed	<u>Trail Priority Criteria:</u> Rugged	<u>Special Features:</u> Utilizes utility easement
			Trail Type: () Trail (x) Pathway		
			Trail Priority: (x) 1 () 2 () 3		
			Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 4.5		
Trail #: 7	<u>USGS Quad(s):</u> 82	<u>Name:</u> Champagne <u>Connections:</u> Trails #2, 5, Bonsall	Trail Status: () Existing (x) Proposed	<u>Trail Priority Criteria:</u> Connects to Welk Village and Bonsall Trails.	<u>Special Features:</u> Existing bike path.
			Trail Type: () Trail (x) Pathway		
			Trail Priority: (x) 1 () 2 () 3		
			Estimated Trail Length in Miles: 2.5		